

The decision for Sinclair Broadcasting to air "Stolen Honor" is morally reprehensible. As a broadcasting group you have the obligation to present factual information to the public when a program is related to the news. You are doing a disservice to your consumers and tarnishing your organizations reputation. This "documentary" is little more than anti-John Kerry propaganda and should not be televised when, by all accounts, it is being shown to sway potential voters in the upcoming general election. Conversely, I wouldn't necessarily approve a viewing of Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 911" although it would certainly yield equal time, more so than being a sport and inviting Mr. Kerry to be interviewed following the airing of "Stolen Honor." What John Kerry did in and after Vietnam is praiseworthy and you'd be better served to concentrate on the real issues facing our country than actions occurring 30 years ago. Shame on you Sinclair Broadcasting. You are clearly in the wrong by exerting your personal political values into your business. I applaud the executives contributing funds to candidates they align their values with, though I may not agree entirely with them; but, airing "Stolen Honor" is a blatant message of enforcing your opinions down other peoples throats. I don't see how you can reject airing a DNC ad and not allow the airing of 60 minutes when reading names of our brave soldiers tragically killed in action in Iraq, and then show "Stolen Honor". The only honor that is being stolen here is that of Sinclair Broadcasting.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.